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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Eternal Father, You have taught us that even good leaders must themselves be led; that wise legislators must themselves have a wiser guide; that wielders of power must themselves serve under a higher power. Be to all in this Chamber that leader, wise guide, and higher power.

Grant to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to all who serve or have served here as Members, as to all in positions of public trust, that lofty vision, deeper wisdom and that stewardship of power that will lead this Nation to peace and prosperity and bring true righteousness and lasting justice upon this Earth.

Such gifts come from You alone, Heavenly Father, so we turn to You, both now and forever. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DeLAY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, May 12, 2005, the House will stand in recess sub-

ject to the call of the Chair to receive the former Members of Congress.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

### RECEPTION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

The Speaker of the House presided.

The SPEAKER. First of all, I want to say good morning. On behalf of the House of Representatives, I am very pleased to welcome you all back. Some of you served before the time I was here; some of you were colleagues that I had the great honor to serve with.

Meetings like this present a unique opportunity. We get to tell you everything that we are doing here, and you get to tell us everything we are doing wrong. You become more seasoned as former Members, and we certainly appreciate that. Seriously though, I am always glad to see this group and hear about all the great things that each of you continues to do for our Nation.

My good friend from the Midwest, Dan Coats, somebody who I attended college with deep in the Midwest, is one of those people. He started his career representing Indiana in the House of Representatives. Dan then moved on to the Senate, where he served for 10 years until 1999, and then served as ambassador to Germany from 2001 until February of this year. Dan is certainly a worthy choice to receive the Distinguished Service Award, and I would like to extend to him my sincere congratulations.

This organization serves a valuable purpose. From your work on college campuses teaching young people about the value of public service, to your work abroad in places like Germany and Japan, you spread the good news about the importance of our democratic government and our institutions.

I had the opportunity last week to meet with a delegation of former Mem-

bers who spent a great deal of the time around their holiday and before in the Ukraine trying to make a difference, trying to help a fledgling nation really bring about the birth of democracy. They were successful.

Just yesterday here in the House we announced Members to serve on the House Democracy Assistance Commission. These are Members who are going to go out and work with emerging democracies. They are going to provide expert advice to parliaments and to parliamentarians in selected countries, and one day they can bring those experiences and that expertise to your organization as well. It is our vision that your experience, your expertise begin to meld and blend with what these Members of Congress are trying to do. So you see, our goals really do mirror one another.

I want to thank you once again for your continuing work on behalf of the American people.

Before requesting that the gentleman from Kansas, Mr. Slattery, vice president of the Former Members Association take the chair, the Chair recognizes the distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DeLAY).

Mr. DeLAY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the words that you just spoke in honoring our former Members that are here today, and some that are here in spirit.

Friends and honored guests, I want to welcome you back home. It is an honor to have back again the Association of Former Members of Congress, a very esteemed organization. I have to tell you, Ms. PELOSI has been encouraging me to join your organization for some time now.

Former Members Day is always a treat for me, because when you put 2 decades of your life into an institution, it is always reinvigorating to see so many friendly faces from days and battles gone by. As I look at both sides of

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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